

Claim 1

An indexing means for a non-rotating circular core cutting knife comprising

- a) a circular knife defining a central orifice and a positional index adjacent to the central orifice,
- b) a knife mounting mandrel sized to pass through and closely fit the central orifice,
- c) an positional index engaging means secured to the mandrel,
- d) a means for securing the knife in place on the mandrel,
- e) a worm gear secured to the mandrel,
- f) a worm shaft having as a part thereof a worm and the worm is operably engaged with the worm gear,
- g) an overrunning coupling operably secured to the worm shaft so that the coupling in an engaged portion of a cycle rotates the knife in the direction of rotation of a core being cut.
- h) a means for counting cutting cycles of the knife and a means for counting indexing cycles of the indexing means,
- i) a means for activating the knife indexing means when a preset number of cutting cycles has been completed and a means for

terminating cutting operations when a predetermined number of indexing cycles has been completed and a predetermined number of cutting cycles has been completed.

Claim 2

A method of automating the operations of the means of claim 1 comprising: the steps of,

- a) making a cut,
- b) stepping a cut counter,
- c) interrogating the cut counter,
- d) repeating steps a-c/until the cut counter reaches a preset value,
- e) indexing the knife,
- f) stepping an index counter,
- g) interrogating the index counter
- h) resetting the cut counter,
 - i) repeating steps a-h until the index counter reaches a preset value,
 - j) terminating cutting operations when the index counter has reached the preset value.